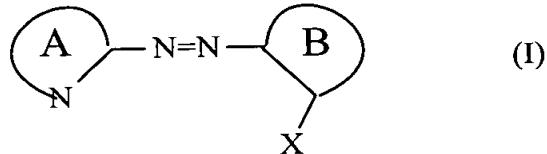
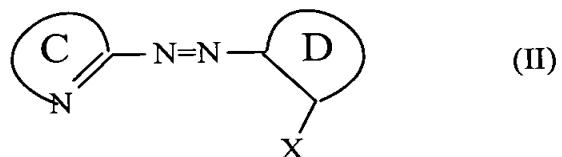


azo compounds represented by the following general formula (I) and the following general formula (II):

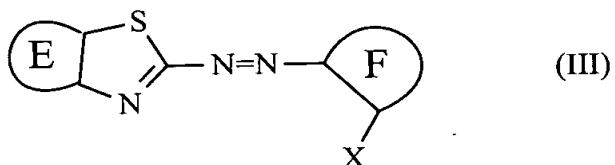


wherein ring A represents an aromatic heterocyclic ring which may have substituent(s); ring B represents an aromatic hydrocarbon ring, an aromatic heterocyclic ring, or a condensed ring of one of these rings with saturated ring(s), and these rings each may have substituent(s) other than X; and X represents a group having an active hydrogen;



wherein ring C represents an aromatic heterocyclic ring which may have substituent(s); ring D represents an aromatic hydrocarbon ring, an aromatic heterocyclic ring, or a condensed ring of one of these rings with saturated ring(s), and these rings each may have substituent(s) other than X; and X represents a group having an active hydrogen.

3. (Amended) The optical recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein two or more azo compounds contained in one molecule of the chelate dye are represented by the following general formula (III):



wherein ring E represents an aromatic hydrocarbon ring which may have substituent(s), or an aromatic heterocyclic ring which may have substituent(s); ring F represents an aromatic hydrocarbon ring, or a condensed ring of an aromatic hydrocarbon ring with saturated ring(s), and these rings each may have a substituent other than X; and X represents a group having an active hydrogen.

4. (Amended) The optical recording medium as claimed in claim 1, which comprises a plurality of said chelate dyes.

5. (Amended) The optical recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein said chelate dye accounts for 5 mol% or more of the total amount of the dyes contained in the recording layer.

7. (Amended) The optical recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the residual moiety except said chelate dye of all the dyes contained in the recording layer comprises chelate dyes having, as the ligands, azo compounds of the same structure alone selected from the azo compounds represented by the general formula (I) or the general formula (II).